

Amendments to the specification

The amendments to the specification were made to correct obvious errors. Those skilled in the art would recognize the existence of the errors in the specification, and would also recognize the appropriate correction. Accordingly, the amendments to the specification do not add new matter.

Amendments to the claims

In the parent case (Serial No. 08/593,554; filed January 30, 1996), claims 1-39 were originally filed. A Continued Prosecution Application was filed on March 2, 1998 with new claims 1-19 and 21-25. On September 11, 1998, an Office Action issued, in which the Examiner noted that the claims were not properly numbered. In the September 11, 1998 Office Action, the Examiner referred to the new claims as claims 40-63, and noted that claims 40-63 had been entered and examined. This application was allowed to go abandoned.

On March 10, 1999, a continuation application was filed, and a Preliminary Amendment was filed on April 21, 1999 in the continuation application. The April 21, 1999 Preliminary Amendment canceled all pending claims without prejudice or disclaimer, and added new claims 1-84. Applicants note that claims should have been numbered starting with claim 124. In the instant Preliminary Amendment, all pending claims are canceled without prejudice to renewal. New claims 124-215 are added. Applicants believe that the claim numbering is now in accordance with correct claim numbering procedures.

New claims 124-215 are similar to the claims submitted in the April 21, 1999 Preliminary Amendment, but have been modified for clarity. Support for new claims 124-137, 140-146, 147-160, 163-169, 170-183, 186-192, 193-206, and 209-215 is as cited in the April 21, 1999 Preliminary Amendment, and the corrections thereto filed August 24, 1999. Support for new claims 138, 161, 184, and 207, which recite 5'-purine-TCG-pyrimidine-pyrimidine-3', is found in the specification at, inter alia, page 13, line 21 (SEQ ID NO:13). Support for new claims 139, 162, 185, and 208, which recite 5'-[TCG]*n*-3', is found in the specification at, inter alia, page 13, lines 21-23. Accordingly, no new matter is added by these amendments.

Originally pending claims 1-84 are canceled without prejudice to renewal, without intent to acquiesce to any rejection, and without intent to surrender any subject matter encompassed by the canceled claims. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue any canceled subject matter in one or more

continuation and/or divisional applications.

For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the pending claims as amended is provided in an Appendix attached hereto.

III. CONCLUSION

In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this preliminary amendment or attached application or if petitions are required, applicants petition for any required relief and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions or other fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number 6510-170 CON2.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: _____

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By: _____



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